

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8465
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08757

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UG
SUBJECT: UGANDA: CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: BONN 7282

1. AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN UGANDA, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING CABLES (DATED MAY 5 AND MAY 9 RESPECTIVELY) FROM ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA ON AMIN'S GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT (REPORT OF MAY 5):

PRESIDENT AMIN EFFECTED THE FIRST PART OF A CABINET RESHUFFLE BY TAKING PERSONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING WERE COMBINED, AND A NEW MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WAS CREATED.

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JUMA ORIS HAD TO LET GO OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION BUT RETAINED HIS POST AS MINISTER OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES. IDI AMIN CHARGED HIM WITH LACK OF DIPLOMATIC SKILL AND OTHER DEFICIENCIES IN DIRECTING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. LUBEGA, THE COLORLESS PERMANENT SECRETARY, REMAINS IN OFFICE. AMIN DECLARED THAT, BY TAKING DIRECT CHARGE

OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE WANTED TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PURSUE HIS POLICY OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

MINISTER OF TOURISM ONAAH WAS RELIEVED FOR INCOMPETENCE. AMIN THREATENED THAT UNLESS UGANDANS SUCCEEDED IN IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOTELS, HE WOULD APPOINT EUROPEANS AND ASIANS TO POSTS IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES.

AMIN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IN THE FUTURE NO MINISTER (OTHER THAN HIMSELF) SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF MORE THAN ONE MINISTRY. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES THAT VICE PRESIDENT MUSTAFA, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND INTERIOR, WILL LOSE AT LEAST ONE. AMIN'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ALSO INDICATE THAT MUSTAFA'S POSITION WILL BE WEAKENED.

THE NEW MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND CIVIL AVIATION HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPOINTED.

PRO-GERMAN NATHAN EPENU, THUS FAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE VOICE OF UGANDA, WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE UGANDA NEWS AGENCY (UNA). FROEWIS. END TEXT.

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3. BEGIN TEXT (REPORT OF MAY 9):

MUSTAFA ADRISI HAD TO GIVE UP THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, BUT HE REMAINS VICE PRESIDENT AS WELL AS DEFENSE MINISTER.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARIJAN, PREVIOUSLY COMMANDER OF THE "SIMBA-REGIMENT" IN MBARARA, HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND COMMUNICATIONS.

PRESIDENT AMIN HAS ALSO PROMOTED A NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS. FROEWIS. END TEXT.
STOESSEL

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